

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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Pictured from left are Polly Swan, Nancy Brown, and Dorothy Fuller who participated in a drama revival at Woodland Hills Church, Jackson.

Festival of Faith: sermons in drama

By Tim Nicholas

Woodland Hills Church, Jackson, held a Festival of Faith drama revival, Mar. 29-April 1, with more than 17 "sermons." But neither the pastor Bill Fuller nor the evangelist Mark Tullios preached the sermons.

The messages came from the membership of the church which performed a series of dramatic presentations to tell of the need for salvation, evangelism, and discipleship.

The photo above tells in humorous form of three "children" trying to get God to give them a doll. They finally decided that "God Ain't Magic," which is the title of the sketch.

More than 80 church members participated in the revival. Tullios, who set up the program months ahead of time, worked with Fuller and church

staffers and Vicki Prather, who volunteered as drama coordinator.

After Fuller and Tullios decided on the needs for the revival and picked the appropriate sketches, members had to memorize parts. Tullios, who works out of Tioga, La., returned for several rehearsals.

One member commented that he had never seen the church family so unified and cooperating together. The church's deaf choir signed offertory music.

There was a youth effort with youth director Steve McKinion, bringing in 43 unchurched teens and a children's emphasis, a double bubble club, coordinated by Sandy Meredith.

In addition to acting, singing, cook-

ing, inviting, visiting, and standing on tall ladders, the effort was bathed in prayer. Said Fuller, there was a special reminder for members to "whisper a prayer" when they saw a red dot placed on members' wrist watches.

Members now plan to utilize green dots to signify wanting God to continue to use what was begun during the revival week.

In addition to three professions of faith, the revival "glorified our blessed savior and affirmed the members of the family of God here," said Fuller. "In a day where people are more accustomed to entertainment, to be spiritually impacting, we need to be willing to venture into some of these new areas."

Henry asks Muslims to grant freedom

By Louis Moore

WASHINGTON (BP) — Southern Baptist theologian Carl F.H. Henry has called upon all evangelical Christians to champion religious freedom for the entirety of humankind.

The end to communism in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union does not eliminate all the restraints imposed on religious freedom worldwide, he said.

"In view of the lifting of restrictions on Christianity by Soviet sphere nations, the repressive treatment of Christian minorities by Islamic nations and by communist mainline China becomes glaringly conspicuous," Henry told participants at the 25th annual Christian Life Commission seminar in Washington March 3.

Henry singled out Saudi Arabia as a prime example of religious intolerance, but also fired verbal shots at Turkey, Egypt, Israel, China, and the American secular culture.

He said Saudi Arabia "not only refuses to approve of basic religious liberties, but it also withholds from Christians even the dhimma, or protection, of the ongoing practice of Christianity."

"Something is terribly amiss when 500,000 men and women fight a war for liberty and freedom while at the same time they themselves are denied the very thing they are fighting for — the basic principle of freedom, including religious liberty even for American workers living within Saudi Arabian borders."

"Saudi Arabia is a good place to begin since Muslims at least enjoy religious tolerance in New York, London, and in many other countries of the world," he said. "Foreign workers in Saudi Arabia, both civilian and military, must be free to worship God in good conscience. They must be allowed to possess Bibles, to display religious symbols, and to meet at congregations for worship."

"It is time that the United States link military and/or economic aid — exempting only emergency humanitarian assistance — with insistence on the right of all foreign workers residing in Saudi Arabia to openly practice their religious faith without harassment, persecution and punishment."

Moore writes for CLC.

Lessons from six cities

ST. LOUIS (BP) — Seminary professor Ebbie Smith detailed a "biblical basis for ministry" during a "Models for Metropolitan Ministry" conference in St. Louis.

Smith, professor of Christian ethics and missions at Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, based his remarks on six cities described in the Bible. Those cities and their applicable lessons are:

- Sodom: God's judgment on the city — our warning.
- Babylon: God's rejection on the city — our terror.
- Nineveh: God's desire for the city — our mandate.
- Jerusalem: God's love for the city — our example.
- Antioch: God's reach toward the city — our methodology.
- The New Jerusalem: God's ideal for the city — our goal.

1,000 cities schedule prayer meetings for May 7

Organizers of a national prayer effort scheduled for May 7 say the event is now scheduled in approximately 1,000 cities in America.

Meet At City Hall asks individuals to meet at their local city hall on the National Day of Prayer, May 7, from 12:20 till 12:40 p.m. and spend twenty minutes praying for a moral rebirth in America.

"From the commitments we have now received, we project that Meet At City Hall will be observed in over 1,000 cities and the number could go higher. It will no doubt be the largest public prayer meeting in the history of this country," said Donald E. Wildmon, Tupelo, chairman of the event.

Carroll-Montgomery to hear Trent Lott

Residents of Carroll and Montgomery Counties, along with members of all faiths across the nation, will bow their heads together in prayer as part of the National Day of Prayer, May 7.

The activities will be coordinated by the Carroll-Montgomery Baptist Association.

Harvey Overstreet, chairman of publicity, said he hoped the National Day of Prayer would inspire a "general awakening of prayer" throughout the area and the U.S.

"We're calling everybody to pray for our nation and its leaders," Overstreet

said. He said the need for a spiritual rebirth was becoming greater every day.

People of all faiths and denominations are encouraged to participate in the event.

In Winona, a prayer breakfast will be held, May 7, followed with noon prayer either at the City Hall or the Montgomery County Courthouse. On May 8, Senator Lott will attend a rally and address the crowd on the need for a resurgence of morality.

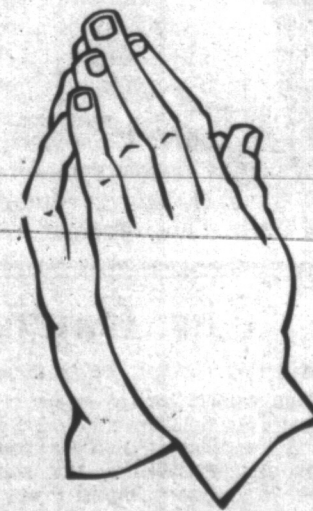
Local efforts to encourage prayer are part of a growing movement across the nation called "Meet At City Hall."

Members of the Carroll and Montgomery County committees involved

include the following: Ron Ballard, chairman/moderator; L. V. Powell, co-chairman/moderator; Lanelle Black, secretary-treasurer; Johnny Walker, breakfast chairman; and C. J. Carson, co-chairman.

Other officers include Lavon Hatten, chairman of the noon meeting, and Nelson Forrest, co-chairman; Ron Ballard, chairman for rally, and L. V. Powell, co-chairman; Harvey Overstreet, chairman of publicity, and Martha Bailey, co-chairman.

Individuals of churches desiring more information about Meet at City Hall should write or call: Meet at City Hall, Post Office Drawer 2440, Tupelo, MS 38803, phone 601/844-5036.



EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

The Link

It is called the Cooperative Program. It links churches with all Baptist work, enabling the smallest or largest church to have an impact on the world. Prior to 1925, our giving to missions was erratic and there was a need for stable, predictable support. The amazing part is, it is a voluntary giving effort on the part of the local church.

I met an appointed missionary in the Northeast who had to go out among the churches and raise his support. He was earnest, hard working, and faithful, but alas, his speaking was not inspiring. He had been trying for two years to raise his salary and get to the mission field. There was cause anew to be grateful for the Cooperative Program.

In Mississippi 63% of CP dollars is used in our state, and 37% sent to SBC agencies and institutions.

About \$20.9 million will be given to the Cooperative Program in our state: over \$13 million will go to Mississippi causes and almost \$8 million will go to SBC causes.

Think of all the causes that will share in this gift: Christian education, evangelism and missions, church service ministries and support ministries. It will help feed a child at Children's Village, provide a small check for a retired pastor, fund a ministry at Parchman prison, and speak in a half-dozen languages to ethnic groups in our state. Foreign and home missions will share in this along with six seminaries and other SBC agencies.

We participate in manifold ministries as we give through the Cooperative Program.

Mississippi is one of the top states per capita in Cooperative

Program support. The Stewardship Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and its director, David Michel, tell us:

— 4 out of 10 churches give 5% or less to the Cooperative Program

— 3 out of 4 churches give 10% or less to the Cooperative Program

— 3 out of 20 churches give between 11% and 15% to the Cooperative Program

— 1 out of 11 churches gives over 15% to the Cooperative Program.

For 67 years the Cooperative Program has served us well. We've yet to discover a way to fund mission work that can go to so many places and abide so persistently. The Cooperative Program is not a sacred cow, but it is a "sacred how" for Southern Baptists.

Guest opinion...

A deadly virus

By Chauncey Daley

The present controversy has overshadowed another Southern Baptist illness which in the long run could prove more deadly than the doctrinal dispute. This is the virus of materialism.

Until recently, the most flagrant example of this virus was the deposing of Lloyd Elder as president of the Sunday School Board, and the installation of James Draper as the new president. The early retirement package for Elder was shockingly extravagant and the salary plus benefits for the new president befit a major corporate executive more than a denominational servant.

A more recent instance of this virus is the severance package for Southeastern Seminary president, Louie Drummond. It appears to be a buy-off of one trustee-elected president, now being ushered out in order to reward another with the post.

The current example of this materialistic virus is within none other than the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention. This powerful committee recommends how every penny of Cooperative Program funds reaching Nashville is to be divided among Southern Baptist agencies — except the Sunday School Board, which receives no Cooperative Program funds.

The Executive Committee also recommends its own appropriation, with which it does its administrative work. This appropriation is

known as the Convention Operating Budget. For many years this was a relatively small amount, but not now.

Although the Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program goal has not been fully met in several years, the Executive Committee is asking for \$4,211,070 next year. This is a 4.67% increase while other Convention agencies are being asked to take a 0.36% cut next year.

The Executive Committee has other sources of income, but \$3.2 million of the \$4 million-plus will be Cooperative Program funds. In early days of Cooperative Program promotion, we boasted of the small amount used for administration. Not so, now!

Here are some items in this \$4,111,070 budget: a Church of Christ minister has been employed as chief parliamentarian for the 1992 annual Convention meeting. He will be paid \$1,000 preparation fee; \$1,000 a day for six days in Indianapolis (though the Convention only lasts three days); \$125 an hour for any pre- or post-convention consultations; plus travel, hotel, and other expenses.

The first year salary of Executive Committee President-elect Morris Chapman will be \$120,000. The chairman of the search committee which recommended Chapman reported this salary is less than the retiring president's, but prudent in light of tight Convention finances.

Chapman will take office June 15

and work with Harold Bennett until Bennett's retirement Sept. 30. In the meantime, Bennett will receive his \$120,000-plus annual salary. He also will receive a \$22,000 retainer fee through Dec. 31. Other benefits include a 1993 Lincoln Town Car, expenses paid for him and his wife to attend SBC annual meetings for life, and expenses for the two of them to attend Baptist World Alliance meetings during Bennett's tenure as a BWA vice president.

Where does this money come from? It comes from the hearts and hands of ordinary Baptists, taught to tithe through their churches with the assurance their gifts will be used to send the gospel to the world.

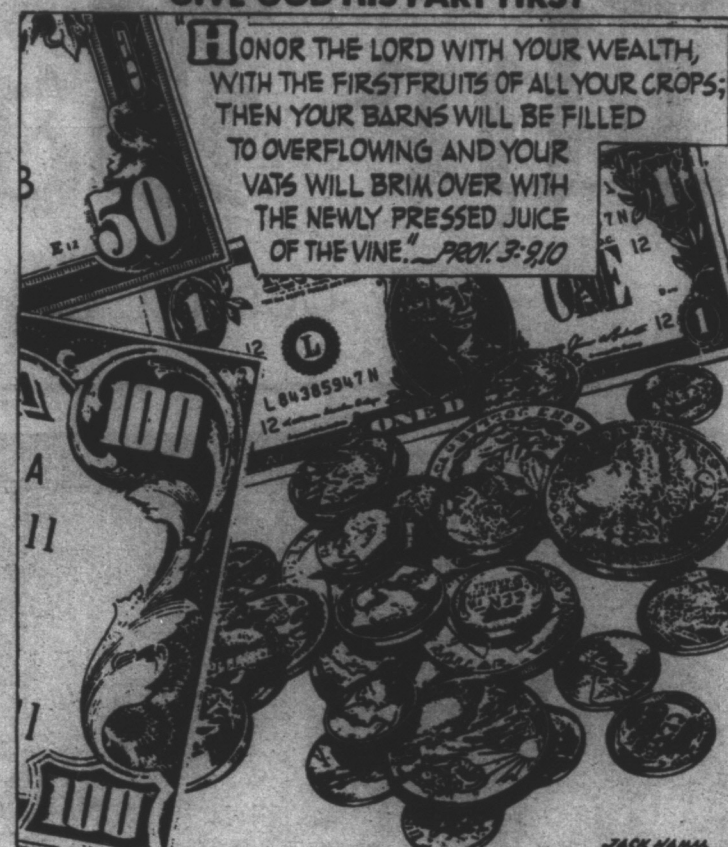
A large percentage of Baptist laity does not realize the extent of this materialism. State papers have access to these facts, but most Southern Baptists never read their state papers. Some editors are reluctant to trust readers with this kind of information.

Jesus warned that one serving him must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow him. He asked what it should profit one who gained the whole world, but lost his soul.

Not only individuals, but churches and denominations can lose their souls. For Southern Baptists, it's time to rise up and shout, "Enough!"

Daley is editor emeritus, Kentucky WESTERN RECORDER.

GIVE GOD HIS PART FIRST



**CHURCHES CELEBRATE
COOPERATIVE PROGRAM DAY
APRIL 12, 1992**

Missionary fellowship

If the Foreign Mission Board awarded battle ribbons they would have been covered, plus several Purple Hearts thrown in. It was the meeting of the Mississippi Missionary Fellowship meeting at Camp Garaywa. There were 32 representing over 900 years of missionary service.

Comrades were remembered in prayer. Ralph and Cora Joyce Davis were not present. He is recovering from heart surgery. Antonina Canzoneri, retired from Nigeria, takes care of her 94-year-old mother. The Ralph Calcotes told of their son returning to Japan on business, saying, "I finally understand what you mean by God's call."

Glenn and Polly Morris told of 35 years in Thailand without spring, fall, or winter, but lots of equatorial summer. Win Applewhite, missionary surgeon in Indonesia, and his wife LaVerne talked with his former nurse Martha, who married Dolton Haggan and served 17 years as missionary to the Choctaws. Cecile and Mark Alexander expressed gratitude; Mar del Plata in Argentina finally has a couple to replace them. The Mayhalls of Nigeria are now retired in Magee; and James and Zelma Foster, in Jackson, and he does play the marimba. The Jim Hartfields transferred their mission farm in Mexico to Hattiesburg; Edd and Freda

Trott of Brazil fame; Charles and Indy Whitten of Spain now serve as MCB prayer coordinators, two of their children are serving as foreign missionaries, and another has adopted ten Spanish-speaking children. The Martin Lockes represented the MKs.

Marjorie and Earl Kelly spoke to the group of the 18 months working as mission volunteers in southeast Asia... from Katmandu to Harold Watson's experimental farm on Mindanao Island. They visited 200 missionary families and flew on 97 different airplanes. Their frequent flyer card rivals Henry Kissinger's — so many stories, heart-wrenching prayer requests, and downright humorous happenings. Marjorie told of a missionary returning to the States on emergency leave. A native helper was also coming. She had never been far from her home province, and asked a lot of questions. Timidly she asked if they had a bathroom on the airplane.

"Yes, they have nice bathrooms." She paused for a long time and then asked, "Mom, are they on the inside or the outside of the airplane?"

For sheer enjoyment other groups have a great time when they get together. Few will surpass the fellowship of the missionary family. We left Garaywa as 1,200 GAs arrived and many of them had the look of missionaries. — GH

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Baptist benefactor cuts FMB from bulk of will

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Baptist philanthropist J. Harwood Cochrane, the Foreign Mission Board's largest benefactor, has disinherited the board of what could amount to tens of millions of dollars.

Cochrane said he has written the board out of his will because he is "disenchanted" with the direction its trustees have taken in the Southern Baptist Convention's theological-political controversy.

One source estimated the legacy

due the board after the death of Cochrane and his wife could have been as high as \$30 million, according to news reports. Other sources said that figure was low.

Cochrane, 79, and his wife, Louise, already have given the board about \$9 million in cash, stocks, and property over the years. Their gifts included a 233-acre tract in Rockville, Va., now the site of the board's Missionary Learning Center.

A member of Tabernacle Church

in Richmond, Cochrane built his fortune with Overnite Transportation Co., which he founded and built into an industry leader before selling it to Union Pacific for \$1.2 billion in 1986. He came out of retirement last fall and founded another trucking company, Highway Express.

His decision became public shortly after FMB President R. Keith Parks announced he was retiring as president in October. Parks said his decision resulted

from basic differences between him and the agency's trustees and lack of clear support from trustees for him to stay through 1995, a date he had requested earlier.

But Cochrane told Baptist Press he made his final decision "six to nine months ago" to remove the board from his will. He had not intended to make it public "now or ever," he said, but responded to specific questions from the Richmond Times-Dispatch, which first reported the story.

While the decision was not directly related to Parks' decision to retire, Cochrane said it was based on his growing "disenchantment" with the trustees' direction and what he called their failure to follow Parks' leadership. "I'm very, very disappointed (about the direction of the board)," said Cochrane, himself a former board trustee. "I've been hurt for four or five years now. As I see it, they're trying to recycle everyone and (See COCHRANE on page 8)

The Second Front Page

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Agencies drop plans for Fellowship exhibit

By Herb Hollinger

NASHVILLE (BP)—Seven out of eight Southern Baptist Convention agencies changed their minds last week about sponsoring exhibits at the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship annual meeting in Fort Worth, Texas, April 30-May 2.

Baptist Press learned the Radio and TV Commission, as of late April 1, decided to opt out of an exhibit at the Fellowship's Resource Fair at Fort Worth's Tarrant County Convention Center. However, the Annuity Board told Baptist Press late April 2 it has not changed its plans to have an exhibit and earlier Woman's Missionary Union, an auxiliary to the SBC, indicated it also would sponsor an exhibit.

In addition, a Southern Seminary spokesman told Baptist Press late April 1 the seminary would not

have a formal exhibit. Originally, four of the six SBC seminaries—Midwestern, New Orleans, Southern, and Southwestern—had planned to use a joint display at the Fellowship meeting.

However, all have since decided against the exhibit but some will sponsor alumni meetings.

In addition to the seminaries, other SBC agencies deciding last week not to exhibit include: Sunday School Board, Brotherhood Commission, and Radio and TV Commission.

The decisions came somewhat as a surprise because of the timing. All seven agencies made the changes public last week. Although there were several suggestions as to why, sources said the explanation by James T. Draper Jr., president of the Sunday

School Board, probably came as close to stating the real reason as any.

Draper, in making the SSB announcement March 30, said, "Cooperative Baptist Fellowship promotional materials advocate bypassing existing Cooperative Program channels. We want to avoid any misunderstanding that, by our presence, the board would be supporting any avenue of mission support that would erode the Cooperative Program."

Morris Chapman, Wichita Falls, Texas, pastor and current president of the SBC, told Baptist Press he did contact "several of our agency leaders and I am grateful for the prayerful and deliberate consideration with which they gave their decisions."

(See FELLOWSHIP on page 8)

House passes "black market tax" bill

By Paul G. Jones

On Thursday, April 2, the Mississippi House of Representatives passed House Bill 1465 which would place a tax on illegal gambling activities. Called by many a bill to create a "black market tax," HB 1465 had been defeated on Wednesday, April 1, but under a motion of reconsideration was revoted on and was approved.

The bill, on the surface, would assess a tax on illegal video gambling machines. Realistically, the proposed legislation would be a public admission that it is better to

allow illegal activity to exist and profit from it than to enforce existing laws and to encourage the punishment of criminal activity.

During the debate in the House of Representatives, several amendments altered the original bill. Any reference to illegal gambling was deleted from the bill. As amended, the bill would also place an official state label or "other official indicia" on the unlawful machine, giving it the appearance of being officially sanctioned.

(See BLACK MARKET on page 8)

Graham visits North Korea

PYONGYANG, North Korea—Evangelist Billy Graham arrived March 31 in North Korea for an unprecedented five-day visit to one of the world's few remaining communist-oriented nations.

Graham's visit marks the first time a foreign evangelist has been invited to the East Asian nation since its formation immediately following World War II. Until recently North Korea, isolated from the West since the Korean War in the early 1950s, had not

permitted open religious activity.

In the past few years, however, one Protestant and one Catholic church have been constructed in Pyongyang with government assistance, and one other church building is under construction in this capital city of two million.

Until the outbreak of the Second World War, the Korean peninsula had one of the largest Christian communities in Asia, and Pyongyang was often referred to (See GRAHAM on page 8)



Media libraries... focus on Bible study

CHESTER, Va.—Kay Jarrett, media librarian at Chester Baptist Church of Chester, Va., examines books for children, some of her most faithful customers. Jarrett and media librarians in other Southern Baptist churches across the country will lead local observances of Church Media Library Emphasis during April. "Media Libraries... Focus on Bible Study" is this year's theme for the emphasis. (BP photo by Jim Veneman)

15 missionaries resign in Europe

By Robert Dilday

RICHMOND, Va. (ABP)—Fifteen Southern Baptist missionaries serving in Europe have resigned this month, Foreign Mission Board officials confirmed April 2.

At least two of the missionaries, John and Revonda Deal, based in Switzerland, are citing recent actions by the board's fundamental-conservative trustees as decisive in their resigning, said Winston Crawley, interim vice president overseeing the FMB's work in Europe.

Crawley said health and other personal reasons led to the others' decisions, although he acknowledged in "two or three cases" opposition to the direction taken by the FMB may have been "background

factors."

However, some board administrators said privately that dissatisfaction with the direction of the Foreign Mission Board, particularly in Europe, has played a more significant role in the resignations than is acknowledged publicly, and that attention has been focused on missionaries in Europe because of recent events impacting FMB missions on the continent.

The FMB has been immersed in controversy since last October, when trustees slashed the board's contributions to the Baptist Theological Seminary at Ruschlikon, Switzerland, citing alleged liberalism there.

The action led in January to the early retirements of the board's top Europe administrators, Isam Ballenger and Keith Parker. Both men claimed the action indicated the board is changing the way it works overseas, although trustees denied the charge.

Other resigning missionaries are John and Celia Bane, Italy; Barry and Vicki Bates, Portugal; Robert and Debbie Cochran, Eastern Europe; Glenn and Camilla Dyer, Germany; John and Diane Haeger, Italy; Tom and Brenda Stallworth, Austria; and Kathie White, Scotland.

Dilday writes for RELIGIOUS HERALD, Virginia.

Editors see politics behind Parks' retiring

(ABP) — Baptist editors have been more inclined to see political rather than spiritual forces behind Keith Parks' surprise announcement March 20 that he will retire as president of the Foreign Mission Board.

Of the Baptist newspapers that by March 31 had editorialized on Parks' retirement, all expressed regret for the executive's decision and the conditions that prompted it.

Parks who described his decision as "God's will," said his reasons for retiring earlier than planned were outlined in a February speech, in which he changed trustees with causing a crisis in overseas missions by "expecting theological conformity from those who receive Southern Baptist money."

"No amount of window dressing by the trustees or Parks concerning his 'prayer retreat' decision... can cover up the fact that he is yet another victim of the political-theological struggle within the Southern Baptist Convention," wrote Jack Brymer, editor-manager of the Florida Baptist Witness.

"Keith Parks' resignation as president of the Foreign Mission Board is a direct result of the moderate-conservative controversy in the Southern Baptist Convention," wrote John Roberts, editor and business manager of the Baptist Courier of South Carolina.

Julian Pentecost, editor of the Religious Herald of Virginia, said there are "glaring inconsistencies between past trustees' decisions of record and the statement adopted."

"Despite Parks' consistent and

gracious efforts to work with all FMB trustees," Pentecost wrote, "the scheming and the strategy to take over the FMB presidency have been in process for several years. Now that the lamentable deed has been accomplished, words of love and appreciation by those responsible for it clang like a noisy cymbal."

The statement issued after the trustee meeting "strikes us as being carefully crafted to put a good face on a bad decision," Pentecost wrote.

In an interview with Marv Knox, editor of the Western Recorder of Kentucky, Parks denied that his decision was a product of "confrontation and bitterness" between him and his trustees. "But," Parks added, "it became clear they didn't want the repercussions of my leaving more than they wanted me to stay."

That was particularly true of a "strong influential minority" of trustees, Parks said. They are the ones who were silent when trustees affirmed Parks' leadership and begged him to stay, and they were the ones who protested when a trustee asked the board to vote for Parks to stay until 1995, Parks said.

Bobby Terry, editor of Word & Way of Missouri, said the turmoil over Parks' tenure centers on the issue of where the president's loyalty should lie. "If the president's role is primarily that of manager and implementer of decisions made by trustees, then Parks has erred," Terry wrote March 12, before Parks' retirement announcement.

"But if the president's loyalty is to be to the cause of foreign missions, then Parks has acted responsibly," Terry continued. "He has called trustee attention and Southern Baptist attention to changes taking place at the FMB." Those changes include trustees interfering in FMB administration and questioning the integrity of missionaries, Terry said.

Southern Baptists, in their response to Parks' dilemma, will ultimately determine if Parks put his loyalty in the right place, Terry said.

Billy Ballard, DOM, dies at 55

Billy Ballard, of Route 1, Mize, director of missions, Smith Association, died April 2 of an apparent heart attack. The funeral was held April 4 at First Church, Raleigh, at 2:30 p.m.

Ballard, age 55, was born at Webb, Miss., Nov. 12, 1936. He had begun work as director of missions in February, 1981.

Married to the former Freddie Huffstatler, he was the father of two children. He was a 1972 graduate of Mississippi College.

Second Church, Greenville ordained him in 1958. He had served pastorates at Goodwater Church, Forest; Burns Church, Raleigh; Fellowship Church, Taylorsville; and Union Church, Mize.

SBC registration cards available

Southern Baptist Convention registration cards for the convention which meets in Indianapolis, Indiana, June 9-11, are available from the office of Bill Causey, executive director, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

A message from a new address...

With sadness, we at the Prayer Ministry Office received the news that Billy Ballard, the DOM of Smith Association, had been found dead in his home. Such a message brought feelings of regret that we had missed the last chance to affirm and express admiration for this servant of God in his missionary work.

Our next thought was to let the family know that they were being supported by the prayers of everybody at the Baptist Building. Supposing that it might be a stressful and inopportune time to talk to his loved ones at home, we called the associational office to leave a message.

It was with mixed feelings that we heard the cheerful voice of Bro. Billy, as he said, "I'm away from the office and cannot come to the phone right now. Please leave your message and I will return your call as soon as I can."

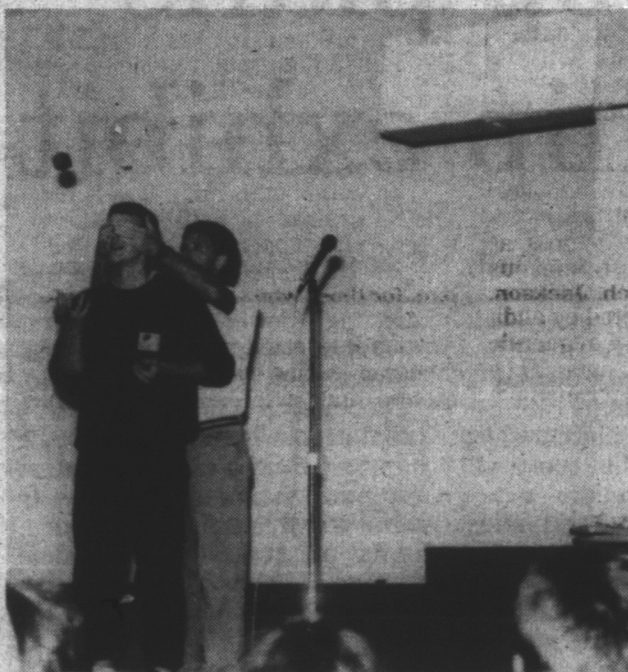
We got your message, Bro. Billy. You'll never again return a call from the associational office, but the influence of your life and words will be a constant "call" that we are all working to "bring Mississippi and the world to Jesus."

—Indy Whitten
Prayer Coordinator, MBCB



Baptist student leaders receive training at Gulfshore

These are the officers of the Mississippi Baptist Student Union elected at the Leadership Training Conference at Gulfshore recently. From left they are (name, office, school, hometown) Staci Broadway, vice president, Northwest Community College, Coldwater; Jennifer Colburn, executive committee, MUW, Amory; Susan Lee, president, MSU, Starkville; Kevin Walker, secretary, William Carey College, Saucier; Mark Jones, executive committee, Mississippi College, Clinton; Michael Ball, director advisor, Pearl River Community College; James Spencer, pastor advisor, Hernando Church, Hernando. Not pictured are J. C. Howell, executive committee, East Central Community College, Walnut Grove; and Eddie Smith, faculty advisor, president of East Central Community College. (Photos by Tim Nicholas)



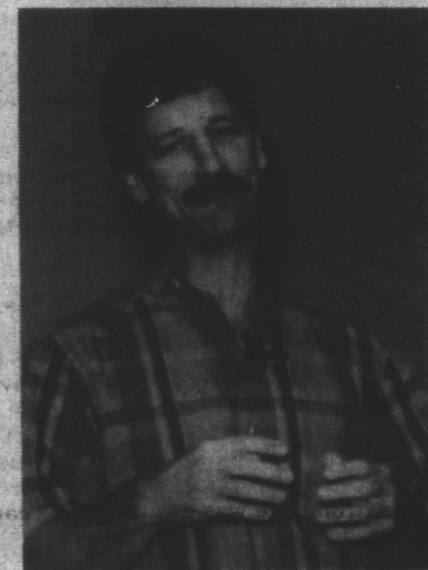
Charlie Baker, pastor of Southern Hills Church in Tulsa, Okla., made juggling into an object lesson. As student juggles, Baker talks about the need to focus on Jesus. When Baker covers Rob's eyes, he loses the focus needed to keep juggling — which is loving God with all of one's heart, soul, and mind and loving one's neighbor as one's self. At far right is a cross made during a theme interpretation led by students from Delta State to depict the building blocks of servanthood — heart, soul, and mind.



Tom McLaughlin, BSU director at Mississippi Delta Community College, brings a challenge to the 97 student summer missionaries appointed by the state BSU. He told of a boy named Manuel who had to cross a crocodile-infested river to hear a missionary speak. "How can we do less than send our best to the Manuels out there?" asked McLaughlin. The next speaker was Missionary to Tanzania Frank Pevey who had been a Mississippi farmer who traveled to Argentina for a missions partnership. It was there on a volunteer trip that "God let me know missions was going to be a part of my life for the rest of my life," he said.



Melanie Rogers, a student from Collins at Mississippi State, told of her experiences at last year's LTC. "I had my plans," she said. Missions was not to be a part of those plans. She knew "who I was going to be." At the leader meeting last year "I felt God was saying to me 'Give me your list.' I thought, 'No, I won't know what to do.'" She said she told God, "What if I don't want missions for the next 20 years?" And she said God's response was "That's what I want you to do now." Last year she served in Los Angeles. This summer she will work in Israel.



The closing speaker for the weekend was Scott Werner, BSU director at Palm Beach Atlantic College at West Palm Beach, Fla. He suggested that Christians "begin with the end in mind" and determine what one wants to have accomplished at the end of one's life. He called this setting a "life objective" or personal mission statement. One student, he said, set his as "Seek ye first the kingdom of God." Werner said his is to "mobilize a generation of college students who will make a difference in the world." The students Werner had been working with also set semester goals such as "develop friends outside my comfort zone" and "develop better attitudes in relationships." Werner said that when a person begins with the end, he or she is able to "start with a clear understanding of your destination."



Chuck Bentley, a musician from Nashville, led the music during LTC.

Faces and places

by Anne Washburn McWilliams

Down but not out

One cloud appeared in a clear blue noonday sky. Only one. Yet it was enough to ruin his day.

Remodeling inside the house was complete; new wallpaper was up. He had waited for a sunny day to do the re-roofing. It was the first house he had ever owned, and he was proud of it. He had wired it himself for electricity and installed the plumbing. He had added a bathroom, and enclosed the back porch with windows. And he had given the exterior a new coat of paint.

Always before he had lived in rented houses, as a sharecropper. This house was his, though, and the land around it. Both were paid for, thanks to the tornado that had blown his barn to bits. Insurance on that barn, plus the sale of two cows, had paid off the debt. He smiled as he thought about those moneylenders, his hazel eyes crinkling at the corners. They had thought that even with his double jobs of farming and working in the cotton mill that he'd be paying them interest for the rest of his life. But, with the Lord's help, he'd fooled them!

Usually he did these repair jobs alone, but today he had a helper with the roof. That would make it possible to finish the job in a day. The two of them tore all the old shingles away; then the helper began handing up shingles for him to nail in place. That was when the cloud appeared — only a small cloud, similar to the one Eli-

jah saw, "like a man's hand." Suddenly a wind arose and pushed the cloud across the sky, so that it hung momentarily between the sun and the house.

Lightning flashed once; thunder exploded in a volley of cannonfire. With no more warning, rain fell, swift, fierce, drenching. Into his house. Drowning his dream. Water leaked down the walls. Water sloshed through the open roof, and collected in ballooning pockets of wallpapered ceilings. The balloons burst, and the soaked ceiling paper sagged, and then dangled in torn strips. He watched his work of months dragged down with the weight of the water.

He was a small man, with a large heart. That heart sagged within him now, like the sagging paper, and his dismay turned to tears.

"It was the first time," Mama told me later, "that I ever saw your Daddy cry."

He was never a quitter. Discouragement was the story of his life; yet he continually rose above it. This time, as always, when the rain stopped, he got up, wiped away the tears, picked up his tools, and began again.

*Oh, fear not in a world like this
And thou shalt know ere long,
Know how sublime a thing it is
To suffer and be strong.*

— Henry W. Longfellow

Missionary Stewart switches from Spanish to Swahili

Mary Jo Stewart is in Kenya learning Swahili so she can travel over that country helping to develop leadership skills among women in the churches.

For her, as a missionary, it's the second new language. Nineteen years ago she was in Costa Rica learning Spanish so she could begin work in Ecuador. She had been appointed the year before.

Stewart, born in Mississippi at Caesar, was reared at Lumberton, where she was baptized at First Church. Now she lists her home address as 1406 Dogwood Terrace, Clinton, the home of her sister, Beth (Mrs. Louis Walsh), a member of First Church, Clinton.

For 11 years, Stewart served in El Paso, Texas, as a foreign missionary assigned to the Baptist Spanish Publishing House, writing and editing missions materials in Spanish for WMU and Brotherhood.

In 1989, she moved to Tucson, Ariz., where for two years she worked as a professional counselor. Then she learned of the need in Kenya for "a woman with maturity and experience to do women's work."

Since she had in earlier years been on the Woman's Missionary Union staffs of Louisiana, Georgia, Northwest, and Arizona Baptist conventions, she realized that this would be a job for which she was qualified, and felt that God was calling her to Kenya.

On Nov. 5, 1991, she arrived in Kenya, where she lives "in a little white cottage" at the Baptist Language Center, Limuru, at 7,800 feet, where "everything is green, with lots of grass, flowers, tall trees, birds, and sometimes monkeys in the trees."

Because of the phenomenal church growth in Kenya in recent years and



Mary Jo Stewart, right, with her sister, Beth Walsh of Clinton.

the many new churches, Stewart is there to help organize and train the women in the churches. On her second day in that country, she attended Baptist Women's Day of Prayer meeting with a group of Masai women. "We met in a little church made of sheets of tin," she wrote, "with wooden benches (no backs on them). After the meeting, the ladies made tea on an open fire under a tree." Most of the Masai, a nomadic people, live now in the Rift Valley.

Stewart said she felt called to missions while she was in college at University of Southern Mississippi. After graduation from New Orleans Seminary, she began work for Louisiana WMU. Her mother, now 90, always very active in Woman's Missionary Union, is a member of Spring Hill Church, Pearl River County.

It's important that she learn Swahili quickly, Stewart said, "Pray that I will learn the language fast because I can't begin work until I can teach in Swahili."



The Mississippi College Naturals are pictured with Jerry Clower. Seated from left are Andra Magee, Clinton; Mary Greenlee, Clouston, Fla.; Clower; and Jennifer Malone, Jackson. Standing from left are Tim Moak, Bogue Chitto; Joel Bowie, Raymond; Jason Ball, Florence; Steven Barnett, Clin-

ton; Jason Roberson, Clinton; Charles McLendon, Richland; Clay Whittington, Richland; Shauna Moody, Odessa, Texas; Tommy Creel, Prentiss; Cheryl Simmons, West Point; Greg Owens, Jackson; John Bullock, Jackson; Stan Pace, Morton; and Ben Buchanan, Indianola.

Jerry Clower to appear with The Naturals

Mississippi College's "Naturally Spectacular" will earn its name in a special way this year. The spring concert by the touring show troupe, The Naturals, has a special feature planned.

Country humorist, and a Southern Baptist, Jerry Clower of Liberty, will make a guest appearance at the concert on April 23, at 8 p.m. in Swor Auditorium on the Mississippi College campus in Clinton.

Clower's ties with Mississippi College are strong. He was awarded an honorary doctor of letters degree there in 1988. His daughters, Amy and Sue, both hold Mississippi College academic degrees.

Clower has said that The Naturals

represent the type of wholesome, Christian young people the entertainment world needs. He will donate his appearance time to endow the Jerry Clower Scholarship Fund for deserving students. Recipients will be selected according to need.

The two women who initiated and have trained The Naturals for the past five years are Eva Aultman Hart, musical director, and Robbie Lloyd Bell, production director. Both have had careers as college educators, as well as serving in numerous capacities at First Church, Jackson.

The Naturals are selected by audition and must meet rigid academic and character requirements. They present a fast-paced program in a broad range of music styles.

Joining them for Naturally Spectacular are brothers, Jason and Daniel Guthrie, professional violinists from Jackson. Jason graduated from M.C. in pre-med in 1991 at age 19. Daniel is a high school senior. They will "fiddle" in true Nashville style for the country music portion of the program. Clower will share some of his most famous tales.

"The combination of Clower and The Naturals is one with generation-to-generation appeal," said Mrs. Bell.

A patron's dinner will be held at 6:30 p.m. for those who wish to participate in funding Clower's scholarship. Anyone interested in attending the dinner or getting concert ticket information may call the M.C. dean of students' office at 925-5348.



Hundreds of youths, and some adults, fill the coliseum "under the golden dome" at Mississippi College on Tuesday night, March 31, during the Jay Strack crusade sponsored by Morrison Heights church, Ken Alford, pastor.

Jay Strack crusade results in 103 converts

One hundred and three individuals made professions of faith in Christ during the Jay Strack evangelistic crusade sponsored by Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, March 29-April 1. There were 84 commitments and other decisions recorded.

The revival began Sunday in the sanctuary but in anticipation of large crowds, the church decided to move night services to the Mississippi College coliseum. Crowds came, as

expected.

The highlight of the crusade was Tuesday night, when emphasis was directed to Clinton's youth — all of the city's youth, not just Morrison Heights.

Strack had spoken in four or five schools. Then Tuesday evening, the church served a pizza supper to around 700 youths from all over town. Afterward, the young people filled the coliseum. When Strack gave the in-

itation that night, 56 persons, most of them youths, made professions of faith and at least that many registered other decisions.

That was the night that Strack gave his personal testimony, how his conversion to Christ at 17 brought him out of the mire of drugs and alcohol and helped him to deal with the hurts brought into his life due to his parents' divorce.

Music for the crusade was under direction of Jack Price.

CHILDREN'S PAGE



Some of the dove cages in Thailand house quite a choir. The cooing of the doves can be very melodious. A concrete bench is placed near the dove cages for the family to sit and not only listen but give "eye contact" to the cooing doves. (Photo by Maxine Stewart)

Doves are special birds

By Maxine Stewart

The dove has always been a special bird to me. I remember as a child in Sunday School in Alabama receiving a Sunday School card with a picture of a dove winging down toward Jesus.

In Thailand there are lots of doves. Our neighbors have doves in cages, as a hobby. We counted a covey of nine zebra (striped) doves in our yard late one evening. They belonged to a neighbor two houses away. They let them out of their cages for periods of time, then they return to their cages. I often hear a dove cooing up on our housetop early mornings.

Thai people have dove contests which sometimes draw more than 3,000 entries. Some own more than 200 doves, but only a few of those doves (about 10) are said to be competition quality.

There is a dove in Thailand by

the name of Sribesu, which is one of the main attractions in dove competition. He was hatched in southern Thailand, but ended up in Malaysia shortly thereafter, having been sold. He won several contests there. He was later entered in one of the "Asian Zebra Dove Contests" where all of the Asian countries (Malaysia, Singapore, Philippines, Indonesia, and Thailand) took part. Having heard the melodious voice of Sribesu, a Thai man, Khun Wirat, was captivated by the bird's ability and was able to buy the dove for 600,000 baht (US \$24,000).

On competition day, some of the doves refuse to coo. This is not true with Sribesu. He is always ready to show off his fine voice of high-pitch, middle-range, and low-cooing. A Singaporean offered one million baht (US \$40,000) to buy

this bird, but Wirat would not accept it. It is said that he has decided not to sell his beloved dove for any price.

A more recent nation-wide "Barred Ground Dove Contest" (stripes in bar or check design) was held in southern Thailand. This competition drew more than 3,000 participants, said to be worth 200 million baht (US \$8 million). Three thousand flagpoles were erected to run the cages up in the air. That was not enough. There were 200 judges at this contest.

The doves are not expensive to feed. It costs about 40 cents a month for the simple food of rice, millet, and vitamins.

Doves are like children in some ways. Sometimes one of the top singers refuses to utter a coo.

Mrs. Stewart is a missionary in Thailand.



The early French, Spanish, Dutch, and English explorers of North America had to create reliable maps to guide them home. Look at the map above. Can you identify waterways they explored? (The first letters of the answers at right should spell "maps" and "home.")

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Dear Pen Pal Club,

Hi! My name is Verlon Nolan. I live in Mize, Miss. I go to Mize Attendance Center. I belong to Shady Grove Baptist Church in Mize. I like fishing, hunting, listening to my radio, motorcycle riding, basketball, volleyball, and a whole lot more things. If you would like to have a pen pal, I would like a girl or boy to write to, so please write me back.

Love in Christ,
Verlon Nolan
Rt. 1, Box 265
Mize, Ms 39116

Hi,

My name is Crystal Ross. I am 8 years old. I like to swim. I would really like a pen pal. Please write to me.

Love,
Crystal Ross
Rt. 1, Box 61
Toomsba, Ms 39364

Hey, what's up, kids?

Hey, my name is David A. Hollings. I am 12 years old. I love being around friends and making a total fool of myself! I like watching TV and playing golf. I go to First Baptist Church, Rosedale. I have a great family! I would love to have a pen pal. I don't mind if a boy or girl writes. Well, catch ya later, kids.

Yours forever,
David Hollings
P. O. Box 697
Rosedale, Ms 38769

Hi,

My name is Elizabeth Harmon. I like to read and write books. It's fun! I want to be an author when I grow up. My church is First Baptist Church, Marion. I am eight years old. If you are interested in having a pen pal, please write. I am interested in having one. If you want to send a picture you can, but you do not have to.

Love,
Elizabeth Harmon
Rt. 1, Box 112
Bailey, Ms 39320

1. This large river, discovered by De Soto in 1541, is known as the "father of waters."
2. This ocean forms the entire eastern coast of the U.S. from Florida to Maine.
3. This ocean forms the entire western coast of the U.S. from California to Washington.
4. There are five Great Lakes on the northern border of the U.S. with Canada. This is the largest.
5. This Great Lake forms the eastern shore of Michigan.
6. This Great Lake forms the northern boundary of New York State.
7. This Great Lake forms the western shore of Michigan and the eastern shore of Wisconsin.
8. This Great Lake touches Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New York states. Admiral Perry defeated the British here in the War of 1812.

Hi,

My name is Karena Conerly. I'm 10 years old. I go to Lexie Baptist Church. I like riding my bike, playing piano, skating, and swimming.

Love,
Karena Conerly
Rt. 6, Box 138
Tylertown, Ms 39667

Hi,

My name is Kristen Ross. I am 11 years old. I like swimming and baby-sitting. I would like for you to write to me.

Love,
Kristen Ross
Rt. 16, Box 26
Meridian, Ms 39301

Dear Pen Pal Club,

My name is Kacie Fowler. I am 8 years old. I like basketball, soccer, to skate, and T-ball. My favorite subject is spelling. I am in 2nd grade. I have four dogs. I go to Wheeler Grove Baptist Church. My dogs' names are Brose, Miss Peady, Fork, and Luke.

Your Friend,
Kacie Fowler
Rt. 4, Box 265
Corinth, Ms 38834

Hi!

My name is Erin Stephens. I'm 8 years old. My hobbies are swimming, riding bikes, playing with my cats, and listening to the radio. If you are 8-10, please write me.

Yours truly,
Erin Stephens
Rt. 1, Box 21
DeKalb, Ms 39328

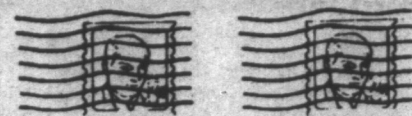
Hi,

My name is Lisa Robinson. I am 11 years old. I like reading, writing, and skating. I am a Christian and I go to Peach Creek Baptist Church. I would really like a pen pal. Please write!

Lisa Robinson
Box 1, Longtown Road
Pleasant Grove, Ms 38657



Letters to the editor



The Trojan horse

Editor:

When I was in junior high school, I first read the story of the Trojan horse. I recently read it again. As you know, the horse was built by the Greeks after they had tried unsuccessfully for ten years to conquer the city of Troy. The horse was left outside the city gates and the Greek army and navy pretended to sail away. The curious Trojans then dragged the horse inside the city walls, although they were warned against such action by a priest. During the night the Greek soldiers who had been hiding inside the horse moved out and opened the city gates, allowing other Greek forces to enter the city and conquer the people of Troy, thus destroying their vision, their plans, and their lives.

A Trojan horse is inside Southern Baptist life. Some call it "conservatism," and some call it "theological correction." Others call it by different names. Its recent casualties are now being seen at the Foreign Mission Board, where Keith Parks and others have taken a stand in opposition to the planned agenda of the takeover of that board. Its future casualties are yet to be seen. On the outside of the horse are written words like virgin birth, inerrancy, evangelism, unity, and sound doctrine.



These words have made the horse very attractive to Southern Baptists and therefore it has been allowed to stay within the city gates. However, there is something that has climbed out of the horse while we have slept and pretended that there was no danger or controversy. Whatever it is that climbed out of the horse has definitely divided us and destroyed much of our vision and plans for work that needs to be done.

Before 1979 Southern Baptists were not perfect. We had concerns, needs, and opportunities for change and growth. The same was and is true for individuals, churches, associations, and state conventions. As Christians, we are on a pilgrimage of faith that challenges us to grow in our relationship to God, always realizing that he has greater things for us in the days ahead.

Since 1979 we have had more division in our ranks than in the history of the SBC, and the horse that looked so good on the outside is still inside the city gates. How long will it be before we see what is really inside of it?

John Doler
Leland

Lipsey ordained him

Editor:

Please extend my subscription for two years. I greatly enjoy the

Record. P. I. Lipsey preached my ordination sermon on Mar. 8, 1938 at the Monticello Church in Mississippi. My most recent heart surgery was done in Tucson, Ariz., by Dr. Jack Copeland.

Presently I reside in Gretna, La., where I live with my older brother under treatment at the New Orleans VA Medical Center. Thanks and my deepest gratitude abides in Mississippi.

Roe Wilson
Gretna, La.

Southwestern not "in disarray"

Editor:

Thank you for your editorial of Mar. 19, 1992. It was well-balanced, irenic, and relatively hopeful with regard to the future of the SBC. You make one statement, however, that I think needs revision. You mention in the context of rampant suspicion in the Convention and demoralization within the mission boards that "seminaries are in disarray...." That clause, I think, commits a fallacy of hasty generalization or, as one of my colleagues calls it, "lumping and dumping."

In "lumping" all six SBC seminaries together, you fail to discriminate among them as autonomous entities. While it may be true that some are in disarray, it is not necessarily true that each one is. As a matter of fact, Southwestern is not only not in disarray but is progressing as only an institution with integrity and stability

can. Our trustees and administrators are working in tandem to strengthen both the scholarly and ministry aspects of theological education; well-qualified faculty members have been elected; new masters' degrees have been approved; raises have been included in two consecutive budgets; morale among students and faculty continues to increase; in short, Southwestern is heeding the invitation of the God of the future who calls us to participate in a creative and redemptive destiny. As a result, the Spirit is effecting in the seminary community the kind of unity-in-diversity that can model for the Convention the supernatural healing only possible through Christ.

As a native Mississippian, I am particularly sensitive to what Baptists in the state "know" about Southwestern. Please inform them that, at least from this faculty member's perspective, Southwestern continues to make significant contributions to God's kingdom. Also, please thank them for their invaluable contributions to us of their prayers and monies, both of which ensure Southwestern's continued growth in excellence.

B. Keith Putt
professor in philosophy
of religion
Southwestern Seminary
Fort Worth, Texas

Praise for Cothen

Editor:

It was with great distress that I recently learned of the sudden resignation of Joe Cothen as the vice president for academic affairs at the New Orleans Seminary. While

a student at New Orleans, I had the privilege of knowing Joe Cothen in the various roles he filled within the life of the student body.

As a professor, Cothen taught his students to be men and women of the Word, living lives filled with integrity, commitment, and a heart dedicated to ministry. As an administrator, Joe Cothen gave his total devotion to New Orleans Seminary, working to insure that the education and training offered at the institution were the finest that Southern Baptist ministerial students could possibly experience. As a friend, Joe Cothen gave young ministers support, encouragement, advice, and an example of lifelong service to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Cothen's departure from New Orleans Seminary is a loss of immeasurable proportions. The contributions he has made in the lives of his students, contributions which span his 18-year tenure, will forever benefit our great denomination. I greatly regret that Cothen will not have the opportunity to contribute to the lives and ministries of future students.

Charles Register
Cantonment, Fla.

1906 — A Laymen's Missionary Movement was inaugurated for the purpose of enlarging the sphere of activities of the men of the church. This movement was the forerunner of the "Baptist Brotherhood of the South," which was organized in 1926. The Brotherhood is a movement for the promotion of men in the work of their individual churches and the denomination.

Lottie Moon Christmas Club? This pastor recommends it!

Christmas Club? You may have belonged to one. Lottie Moon Christmas Club? Probably you have not.

Crestwood Church, Booneville, has this unusual way of keeping the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions before its people all year around.

"The idea was not mine," said Doyle Ferrell, Crestwood pastor. "As far as I know, Mrs. Marilyn Sparks, widow of the late Danny Sparks, came up with the idea originally. The Thrasher Church first used the idea a couple of years before we at Crestwood did. Then Brother Sparks, Thrasher pastor, shared the idea at a couple of associational events."

First, Ferrell presented the plan to the Woman's Missionary Union at Crestwood, and later to the church as a whole. Participation is voluntary. He challenged the people to commit, with God's help, to give a certain amount, weekly or monthly, throughout the year, to the Lottie Moon Christmas Fund Club. He suggested \$1 a week, the

price of two cups of coffee or two soft drinks. In the first year of the plan, most of the members did give about \$1 a week or \$4 or \$5 a month. Later, some increased their gifts to \$10 or \$15 per month.

Ferrell said the first year he was pastor at Crestwood he promoted the Lottie Moon Offering in December only, and the amount given was less than \$500. In 1989, the first year of the club, gifts doubled. From 1989 through 1991, gift totals to foreign missions through the Christmas Club have been \$1,044; \$1,500; and \$1,627, in sequence. "I realize we are not talking about a lot in dollars and cents," Ferrell said, "but considering the size of our congregation and the resources available to us, it is phenomenal."

For promotion of the club, the pastor prepares a Membership Certificate/Commitment Form. He places the form into a packet with 12 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering envelopes (one for each month). He has these packets available on the first Sunday in

January. He continues to mention the club all through January and then several times during the year, for the benefit of newcomers or for persons who may have decided late to become involved.

Ferrell declares, "I do know that this club has enabled Crestwood to contribute much more to foreign missions than we ever would have, or could have, without it. I can heartily recommend it to any WMU or congregation. Just think, if every Southern Baptist church could increase its per capita giving to foreign missions at the rate our church has (I do not say this for self-glory, but God be praised), Southern Baptists could enter the doors that are opening around the world, with the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Sixteen families joined the Crestwood Club in 1992. Jean Jacobs, member of First, Booneville, and a retired missionary to Trinidad, said, "I thought it was such a good idea that I joined it even though my membership is not there." — AWM

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A heart-warming new book by
one of Mississippi's native sons

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Send _____ copy(ies) of Jerry Clower's book to be published in April at \$19.95 each. In Mississippi add 6% sales tax. Shipping: \$3.00 for first book, \$1.00 for each additional book.

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BLACK MARKET

From page 3

Proponents argued that as many as 4,000 illegal machines were known to exist in the state and the \$500 per machine tax could raise as much as \$20 million. The Christian Action Commission holds that if 4,000 illegal machines are "known to exist, then the confiscation of the equipment and the prosecution of the offenders is the most responsible and appropriate action by prosecutors and law enforcement. Is it good government to attempt to profit from and overlook criminal activity? Will the legislature consider a proposal to place a tax on prostitution, drugs, or some other repugnant

and illegal activity?

House Bill 1465 has been passed on to the Senate who must likewise address the issue of a so-called black market tax on presently illegal activity. The Senate needs to know the opinion of the citizens on HB 1465. A letter, telegram, phone call, or visit would help place the issue in perspective for them. Persons desiring to express their concern about HB 1465 may call 359-3770 or write Box 1018, Jackson, MS 39215. Edmund Burke reminds us that the best way for evil to survive is for good men to do nothing.

Jones is executive director, Christian Action Commission, MBCB.

FELLOWSHIP

From page 3

Chapman, president-elect of the SBC Executive Committee after the Indianapolis annual meeting in June, said he shared his conviction (about the CBF) "with whom I talked but there was absolutely no conversation that bordered on any type of threat or coercion."

"While our SBC agencies make their own decisions, I appreciate their supporting the cooperative spirit of the SBC," Chapman told Baptist Press. "I wholeheartedly support their decisions to not set

up exhibits at the CBF meeting."

"The Fellowship is laying a foundation for a new denomination while claiming to be loyal to the SBC," Chapman said. "The Fellowship is organizing competing agencies. It does give designated gifts to some of our agencies. But it is by no stretch of the imagination, giving through the SBC Cooperative Program. Rather it is deliberately attempting to divert funds from our CP to their plans of giving. This is not the Southern Baptist way."

Hollinger is director, Baptist Press.

COCHRANE

From page 3

make a fundamentalist out of them. I don't like it a bit."

Cochrane called Parks a friend and "the greatest leader of missionaries I have ever seen" and said he would support the mission leader in whatever he decides to do. But he declined to say whether that would involve financial support of any mission endeavors Parks might undertake after retirement "because I don't know what he will decide to do."

Cochrane told the Times-Dispatch his experiences with the mission board have left him unenthusiastic about supporting the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, a group backed by a moderate faction among Southern Baptists. But he hinted he might consider doing so.

Although Parks will not speculate about his future, reports indicate the fellowship is interested in talking to Parks about leading a mission effort.

O'Brien writes for FMB.

Staff changes

East McComb Church has called Ricky E. Kennedy, 40, as pastor effective April 1. A native of Magee, Kennedy received his education at Mississippi College, attended New Orleans Seminary, and graduated from International Bible Seminary, Orlando, Fla.

James C. Pitts has been called as pastor of Antioch Church, Foxworth. The Jones County native attended Louisiana College and William Carey College. He has served as pastor in south Louisiana since 1965. Before going to Louisiana, he served churches in Lebanon and Lamar Associations.

Rosen Heights Church, Fort Worth, Texas, has called Randy Robbins as associate pastor, effective May 1. A native of Cleveland, he received his education at Mississippi College and Southwestern Seminary.

New Orleans will host Growth Conference

An Advanced Church Growth Conference will be held April 13-15 at the New Orleans Seminary. Charles Lowry, director of the Church Growth Center, NOBTS, and Ron Lewis, church growth consultant, will lead the conference. Basic church growth — what's working, what's not — and successfully applying principles and strategies in traditional churches will be the main topics. The conference will begin Monday at 1 p.m. and continue until Wednesday noon. Registration fee is \$35 and room reservation can be made by calling (504) 282-4455.

Homecomings

Tuscola Church, Leake County: April 12; homecoming and dedication of new fellowship building; services, 11 a.m.; lunch following; afternoon service, 1:30 p.m.; Smith Sanders, pastor.

Pleasant Hill, Bogue Chitto: April 12-15; John Wilton, Long Beach, evangelist; Sammy McDonald, pastor, Gum Grove Church, Brookhaven, music; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; weekdays, 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Floyd F. Higginbotham, pastor.

Big Creek, Waynesboro: April 12-15; Bill Bozeman, Mobile, Ala., evangelist; Andy Williams, Chatom, Ala., music; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Barney Bagley, pastor.

Amaziah, Hickory Flat: April 12-17; Jimmy Russell, Friendship Church, Ecu, evangelist; Steve Parrish, Friendship Church, music; Sunday, 6:45 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7:30 p.m.; Charlie Ransier, pastor.

First, Lyman (Gulf Coast): April 12-15; Hardy Denham, Hattiesburg, evangelist; David

GRAHAM

From page 3

as "The Jerusalem of the East."

Most churches in North Korea were destroyed in the Korean War, however, and hundreds of thousands of Christians were killed or fled. Today North Korea is considered by some observers to be the most non-religious country in the world.

On April 1 Graham preached to a capacity crowd in the Bongsu Church, Pyongyang's only Protestant church. Preaching from one of the Bible's most familiar passages, John 3:16, Graham stressed the reality of God's love for every human being and urged his audience to follow Christ in their daily lives. Before the service he met with about 30 pastors and church leaders. Although North Korea's political system is based on an atheistic foundation and religious belief is not encouraged, the government has assisted in the construction of two church buildings in recent years, and other church buildings are under construction or planned. Even so, Christian believers still constitute only a tiny minority of the country's 22 million population.

Graham's busy schedule also included a courtesy visit with the minister of foreign affairs, Kim Yong Nam. The Korean Christians Federation, his official hosts, gave a reception in his honor which included some of North Korea's best-known actors and scholars.

At North Korea's leading educational institution, Kim Il Sung University, Graham gave a lecture on religion in America. Over 400 students jammed the lecture hall and listened intently as Graham spoke about America's religious roots and described the meaning of the Christian faith. Afterward he visited the site of the old Pyongyang Foreign School, where his wife, Ruth, had spent several years as a student in the 1930s. His guide was a woman who had had ties with the school before its destruction in the Korean War

Revival dates

DePriest, First Church, Lyman, music; Sunday, 10:45 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Don M. Snipes, pastor.

Beech Grove, Pattison: April 12-15; Mike Alexander, New Orleans, evangelist; Phillip Alford, music; Sunday, 11 a.m. and dinner on the grounds; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Eddie Bates, pastor.

First, Philadelphia: April 12-15; 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Jerry Pipes, evangelist; Debra Pipes, music; Bill Jaggar, pastor.

Terry Road, Jackson: April 12-15; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7:15 p.m.; James Netherland, Terry Road Church, music; messages by local evangelist; Doris Lott, organist, Rexie Mann, pianist; Pearl Quartet will present mini-concert Wed. night.

First, Mt. Olive: April 12-15; Bill Causey, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, evangelist; Marvin Miller, 38th Avenue, Hattiesburg; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Donald O'Quin, pastor.

Daniel Memorial, Jackson: April 12-15; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; noon services on Mon. and Tues.; Mike Gilchrist, evangelist; Byron

R. Malone, pastor.

Colonial Heights, Jackson: April 11-15; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Mon. and Tues., noon day luncheon, 11:45 a.m.; weekdays, 6:30 p.m.; Junior Hill, Hartselle, Ala., evangelist; senior high choir and orchestra, First Church, Jacksonville, Fla., music; Richard A. Powell, pastor.

Poplar Flat: April 12-14; Sunday, 11 a.m. and covered dish, 5:30 p.m.; Sun.-Tues., 7 p.m. nightly; Bobby Williamson, Park Place, Brandon, evangelist; Betty Cockrell, music; Dwayne Kelly, pastor.

Turnpike, Pontotoc: April 13-17; Kara Blackard, evangelist; Sammy Montgomery, pastor.

First, Braxton (in conjunction with United Methodists churches, Braxton): Holy Week revival; April 12-15; 7 p.m. at First Church; Shane Stanford, Justice Heights United Methodist Church, Laurel, guest evangelist; Sheila Frazier, First Church, directing combined choirs; Jerry Warren and Will Dowling, pastors.

1915 — The Children's Village, then the Mississippi Baptist Orphanage, was the scene of a dietary experiment that led to the discovery of the cause of pellagra.

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Lad/Crusader Day is coming to Central Hills Retreat April 25



Alexander

Dunaway

Lad/Crusader Day will take place at Central Hills Baptist Retreat on April 25 from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Program personalities will include Phil Dunaway, missionary to Brazil, now on furlough, and Mark Alexander, retired missionary to Argentina.

Each boy attending is asked to bring a sack lunch; no meal will be provided. Deadline for registration is April 21. The \$2.50 fee includes insurance, drinks, and facility costs. Make checks payable to Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and mail to Crusader Day, Brotherhood Department, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Overnight camping will be available for a limited number of groups. Each group would have to supply its own equipment and meals. This would need to be arranged for by April 10, at \$1 extra per person. For more information about this, contact Dan West, manager, Central Hills, Box 723, Kosciusko, MS 39090 (phone 289-9730).



These are the new officers of the Mississippi Baptist Church Music Conference. From left they are Clyde Carraway, president-elect, minister of music at First Church, Lucedale; Ray Burke, secretary-treasurer, minister of music at First Church, Amory; and Lewis Oswalt, president, faculty member at Mississippi College. Not pictured is Allen Harris, vice president, minister of music at North Oxford Church, Oxford.

Missionary news

Vic and Martha Bowman, missionaries to Chile, are in the States (address: Rt. 2, Box 178, Pelahatchie, Miss. 39145). They are natives of Mississippi. He was born in Brandon and considers Pelahatchie his hometown. The former Martha Martin, she was born in Jackson and considers Mendenhall her hometown.

James P. and Dottie Gilbert, FMB missionaries to Panama, are on final furlough through July 1. Their address in states has changed (was: 223 Nicholson Ave., Waveland, MS 39576). Now: 204 Corinth Dr., Bay St. Louis, MS 39520. Phone (601) 466-5785. They will retire after July 1.

Lottie Moon goals set

Providence Church, Hattiesburg, has met its goal of \$3,000. The total as of March 22, is \$3,001.13.

Center Ridge Church, Yazoo City, set \$800 as its goal for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. During the first Sunday that the offering was received, that goal was met. Total contributions for this year's offering were \$1,141.00.

The Cooperative Program of giving was introduced by the Convention in 1925 to provide financial support for all of the projects it sponsored. This was considered one of the most forward steps in the development of Christian programs of service.

Thursday, April 9, 1992

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9

Churches adopt Expanded Annuity Plan

The following churches have adopted the Expanded Annuity Plan since those reported in the March 5 issue of the Baptist Record: Grenada: Temple; Gulf Coast: Lizama; Lowndes: Faith; Pearl River: Parkview; and Sunflower: Fairview.



John and Claire Barlow

Barlows help plant church in Philippines

John and Claire Barlow, Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, served in Digos Southern Baptist Church, Digos, Davao del Sur, Philippines, March 5-17. This partnership evangelism crusade was sponsored through the Foreign Mission Board by the Tennessee Baptist Convention. The primary area of work was in church planting. Salvador Salana is pastor of Digos Southern Baptist Church.

One in a million

For several years the Thailand Baptist Mission had no missionaries available to work in Choburi Province. Since missionaries Bob and Maxine Stewart live in a neighboring province, Chacheungsao, Bob was asked to serve as area church planter and missionary advisor at the two established churches in Choburi Province along with his other work — part-time evangelist at the Bangkok Baptist Hospital; missionary advisor at the Chacheungsao Baptist Church; church planter for the western half of Chacheungsao Province; director of Baptist Leadership Training; editor of the Provincial Baptist News paper, etc.

On his birthday, Bob received a "Charlie Brown" birthday card from his sister with the greeting, "Brother, you're one in a million!" "Of course, I appreciated her sentiments," said Bob "but then I thought some more about words, and about the population figures for Choburi and Chacheungsao provinces. I was almost overwhelmed by the fact that I actually was THE ONLY missionary preacher, of any denomination, among a population of over a million people!"

Now four missionary couples work in Choburi Province, and a new couple is coming to Chacheungsao Province in June but however, two missionary couples have left Prachinburi Province (leaving only a single lady), and the only couple in Chantaburi Province has also been transferred. The only couple in Rayong Province will be retiring soon, and the Stewarts will be retiring in 1994 (final furlough mid-year 1993). Again they will have some "one in a million" situations unless new recruits go to Thailand in answer to God's call.

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Just for the Record



Convention board member Don Stanfill, left, presents a check for \$600 to Cayce Church, Marshall Association, to J. W. Armour, Virginia Armour, Lamar Lester, Billy Armour, Barbara Mitchell, and Billy Mitchell, pastor. The money is for church building aid and comes from the Margaret Lackey Offering for State Missions. The church broke ground for its new building on March 7.



Cayce Church, Marshall Association, held a ground breaking service March 7, followed by a Bar-B-Q fellowship. Pictured are a few who were present. Cayce has been using a mobile chapel owned by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. The church is located just off Hwy. 72 at the Tennessee state line. Members hope to be in their building by early fall if the weather permits. Associational mission teams from Lafayette and Marshall Associations will be doing volunteer construction to help them. The pastor is Billy Mitchell.

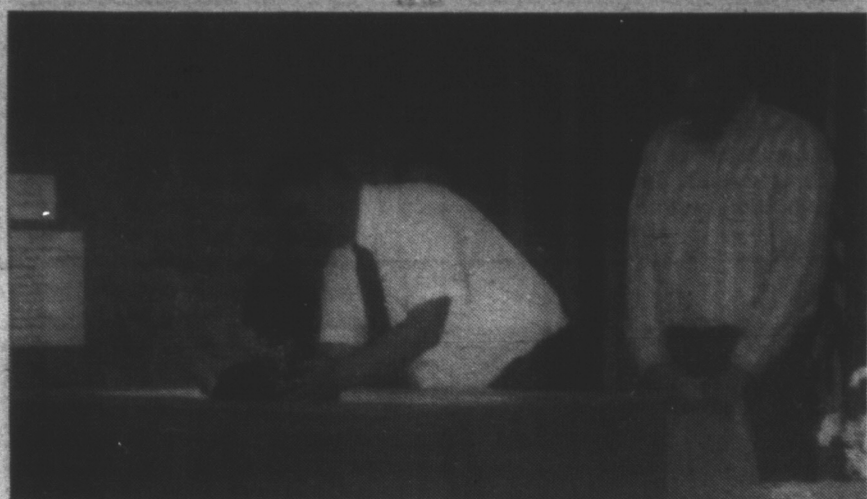
The Sons of Faith will sing for their last time as a group at Gatesville Church, Crystal Springs, April 11 at 7:30 p.m.

Dry Creek Church, Magee, will present portrayal of the Death, Burial and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. The dramatization will begin at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, April 17.

Adult Choir of Center Ridge Church, Yazoo City, will present its Easter Cantata Sunday, April 12, during the morning worship service. The musical "Lamb of Promise" was created and arranged by Ed Kee. The choir is under the direction of Stephen Bath. During the evening worship hour April 12, the Children's Choir will present "Easter Joy." They are under the direction of Janice Bath.

First Church, Ocean Springs, will have a note burning praise service on Sunday, April 12, following a covered-dish luncheon in the activities building. This note burning celebrates the final payment on the \$250,000 borrowed to build the present sanctuary. The church has just finished a long range planning project and is in the midst of beginning renovations to existing educational facilities, updating office facilities, and enhancing the worship area. In addition to these planned projects, the church has in the last year purchased a three manual Allen Organ, new Baptist Hymnals (1991 ed.), and a 40 passenger air-conditioned Blue Bird Bus. Paul D. Aultman has served as pastor for the past 27 years and is assisted by Larry Futral, minister of music and activities (nine years), and Bruce Hennington, minister of education and youth (five years).

North Hill Baptist Mission, Wiggins, will have special services on Sunday, April 12, to dedicate its new church building. Guest speaker for the morning services will be Bobby Perry, director of missions, Gulf Coast Association. Following lunch in the fellowship hall, Ernest Sadler will be guest speaker for the afternoon service. Also participating in the afternoon will be Burn Page, First Church, Wiggins. Doyle Sellers is pastor.



Pastor Joe Young baptizes a new convert as another awaits baptism. The portable baptistry was built by a Calvary member, Joe Harmon, who is director of maintenance at Mississippi State Penitentiary. It was constructed from the inside of an abandoned deep-freeze with a cabinet built around it. Valuable space in the crowded building was conserved for Sunday School classes.

Calvary, Parchman, receives state missions offering check

Charles Jones recently presented to Calvary Chapel at Parchman a \$3,000 check for the building fund, from the 1991 Mississippi Baptist State Missions Offering. Jones is director of missions, Sunflower Association. The gifts were used to make the building more functional and to provide Sunday School space.

This new congregation, less than two years old, has grown to 25 baptized members and has 110 enrolled in Sunday School.

Serving the staff population at Parchman Prison as well as a large rural area, the mission church is the result of years of ministry. Parks Church since 1985 has ministered to families on the prison staff, as have Home Mission Board appointees Charles and Hazel Jones since 1986. In 1990, Parks Church began a mission at Parchman, which quickly drew together several converts of both the Parks Church outreach and Parchman Prison Ministries.

Joe Young, pastor at both Parks and Calvary, Parchman, pointed out that the new work resulted from the

cooperative efforts of many different churches which did one or two mission projects at Parchman.

The Parchman Prison Ministries leadership in Sunflower Association provided the coordination for most of these events. Parks Church's consistent efforts in ministry there have served to conserve the fruits of many churches' labor.

Young said, "Today Calvary Chapel, a Baptist congregation, is the only church of any denomination located at Parchman. Other churches minister at Parchman, but Calvary Chapel is Parchman staff Christians reaching out to fellow staff members where they live. Miss. Baptists were able to lend a helping hand, for which the people of Calvary Chapel are grateful."

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Thai nurse asks for Bible classes

Sommat Gamonkon, a nurse at Bangkla Baptist Hospital, Thailand, had been observing Christians' lives for several months when she asked missionary Maxine (Mrs. Bob) Stewart if she would teach her the Bible. Mrs. Stewart had had many requests from Thai nationals to study English, but this was the first request she had ever had from anyone to study the Thai Bible. Classes quickly got underway.

"What do you know about Jesus Christ?" Stewart asked in trying to find out how much her student knew.

"Not much, really," nurse Gamonkon replied. "In a school textbook we had on comparative religions, there was a short paragraph about him. It said, 'Jesus Christ was a Jew and was the head of the Christian religion and he was put to death on a cross by the Roman soldiers.'"

She went on to say that after studying that statement, she asked her father, a learned man, if he knew anything about the Christian leader called Jesus. He thought for a moment and said, "No, I have never heard of him." She then told him what

the textbook stated. His reply was, "I never heard that story before, but he must have been a bad man to have died a death like that."

"What a joy it was to teach her about Jesus Christ and about his love, and to see her come to know and accept him into her heart and life," said Stewart.

After she became a believer, nurse Gamonkon said she was anxious to return to her home in a distant province to share with her father the good news of Jesus Christ.

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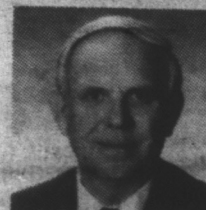
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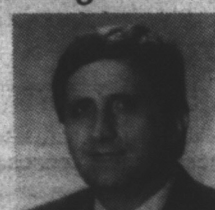
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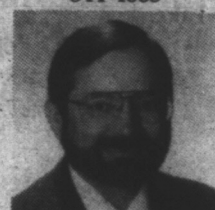
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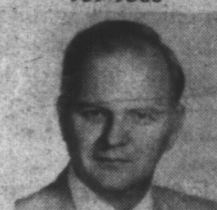
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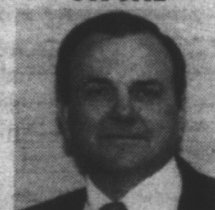
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Carpentry skills are needed for "Jericho"

ATLANTA (BP) — You don't have to be the son of a carpenter to be involved in missions this year at Jericho but some carpentry skills are needed.

Visitors to the annual missions fairs at Glorieta, N.M., and Ridgecrest, N.C., can help build pews, pulpits, and tables for two mission churches during the annual festivals, project organizers said.

The project began last year as volunteers tried to build at least one piece of furniture for 60 churches, said Elmer Goble, short-term missions volunteer coordinator for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

This year the program was modified to equip one overseas church and one church in America with pulpits, portable lecterns, pews and Lord's Supper tables, Goble said.

Workers at Ridgecrest will build furniture for Canaan Baptist Church in Queens, N.Y., Goble said.

Workers in Glorieta will build pews for the Church of the Good Pastor in Praxedis, Mexico, in the Rio Grande valley, said M. B. Howard, of the Brotherhood Commission in Memphis, Tenn.

LIFE AND WORK

Sharing in the triumph



By Lola M. Autry
Matthew 26:57-27:56

In this day we often hear the call for blood donations that lives might be saved. This blood is a wonderful gift, and many are with us today because of someone's sacrificial giving of it. Jesus gave his blood, not that human life could be extended on this earth, but that through his sacrifice — the shedding of his blood on the cross — life could be extended through eternity for all who believe on him. Jesus' suffering and death were gifts to sinful man. His resurrection was triumph in its greatest form. Let's look at this Messiah-King who suffered and died for us; with whom we can share in the triumph of his kingdom by accepting him as Savior.

Jesus declares his identity to Caiaphas (26:63-64). As the focal passage of our lesson begins, we find Jesus before the high priest Caiaphas, who is astonished that Jesus has answered nothing to his accusers. Caiaphas adjured or charged Jesus by the living God to speak; to tell whether he was the Christ, the Son of God. Jesus said he was.

He did not stop at that. He said, "Hereafter shall ye see the Son of Man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven."

The council condemns Jesus to death (26:65-66). After Jesus' words, the high priest tore his clothes. He accused Jesus of blasphemy, of speaking irreverently of God, and dismissed the need for witnesses. Turning to those around, he asked uselessly, "What think ye?" Like many of us, he did not want all the responsibility concerning Jesus. We, too, accuse Jesus when we refuse his offer of salvation. Often-used excuses are: "I don't need Jesus. I'm as good as any Christian I've known;" or, "A lot of Christians are hypocrites, I don't need that." These lame excuses belabor the point. Like Caiaphas, they are condemning him without proper trial.

Jesus is ridiculed while hanging on the cross (27:39-42). Have you ever had your attempts at helping someone ridiculed? How did you feel? Like quitting? Like spitting words back? Like saying, "What's the use?" Jesus' accusers mocked him while he hung on the cross, dying for mankind's sins. Not one good thing is recorded in the Scriptures as having been said about him while he hung there. Instead, he was jeered and taunted and reviled.

Jesus cries out to God (27:46). At about the ninth hour (near three o'clock), Jesus suddenly called out, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"

When Jesus' soul was first troubled, a voice from heaven comforted him. During his time of agony in the garden a heavenly angel strengthened him. But now, God the Father hid his face from Jesus to allow Jesus to bear all mankind's sin. Jesus paid the terrible price that was necessary that we might be forgiven by holy God. Note that even in being forsaken by God, Jesus still called him "my God." In the depths of all suffering God was still "mine" to Jesus.

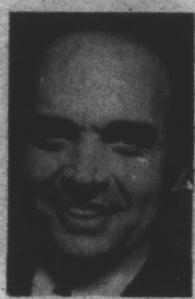
The Roman centurion declares Jesus' identity (27:54). Jews standing near the cross may not have been impressed, but the centurion and those with him were. They were convinced that Jesus was God's Son. Are you convinced? Read the Scripture lesson — all of it. Only God and the Son of God could have produced what happened during this time.

A friend of mine, ill, weak, emaciated, read the story and believed. She was so skinny that her knees hurt when she tried to kneel. But she put newspaper on the floor and a pillow on top of it. There, on her bony knees, hurting physically, she thought of the so much more physical hurt of Jesus. She prayed and became his because of what he did for her. He did the same for you and me. He says, "Only believe." That is his invitation to share in the triumph of his kingdom.

Autry lives at Hickory Flat, and is a member of Pine Grove Church.

BIBLE BOOK

Concern for the Corinthians



By Charles Nestor
II Corinthians 1:12-17

Paul deals with some specific relationship problems in the church at Corinth. This was his reason for writing the letter. There were people who were attempting to slander Paul; to say he was not sincere. He speaks of his desire to visit Corinth and explain his reasons for not coming. He concludes by giving thanks to God for the ministry being accomplished through his life.

1. The sincerity of Paul's actions (1:12-14). Apparently there were those claiming Paul was not sincere in his ministry. Paul responds that he had lived with the holiness and purity of God. He was not hiding anything from them. Then there were those who apparently accused him of hidden motives. In his response he states that his whole life is controlled by the grace of God. There were those who claimed his letters did not communicate what he actually said. Again, Paul defends himself by declaring he had not hidden anything in his letters.

Paul provides some admirable qualities of life. There were no hidden actions, motives, or meanings in his life and ministry. Christians are to practice a lifestyle that honors Christ. We should be careful of our conversation regarding others. The tongue is a powerful instrument. If it is used wrongly, it can destroy another life. "If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body as well" (James 3:2). Paul was encountering critical words about his life motives. However, he was not overcome by such false accusations because Christ lived in his life.

2. Paul's genuine intention to visit Corinth (1:15-16). Paul had full intent of visiting Corinth on his way from Ephesus to Macedonia and on his way from Macedonia to Judea. This would give him two opportunities to minister through preaching and teaching. Due to misunderstandings that developed, Paul did not consider this to be the right time to visit. That decision led his critics to claim he had never intended to visit them. They advocated that if they could not trust him in matters of this nature, perhaps they could not trust him in the spiritual matters. This is a good illustration of how often Satan attempts to divert the work of the church. His favorite channel is to stir up controversy among the family. Paul's intent was sincere. That should be the basis for all work in the church today.

3. Paul's reason for not visiting Corinth (2:1-4). The situation at Corinth was not good. There was the problem of party divisions. Some denied the authority of Paul. He tried to help by making a visit to the church. However, the visit just made the problem worse. This was heartbreaking for Paul. He wrote them a serious letter of rebuke, written with great sorrow. He knew that another visit at this time would only worsen their relationship. He preferred to wait for the situation to improve. Paul's example in dealing with the church at Corinth demonstrates the Christian attitude in personal relationships. Our mission is to encourage spiritual growth; not to be a hindrance.

4. Paul's thanksgiving for God working through him (2:14-17). There were problems at Corinth but there were also great victories. Paul gave thanks for them. He uses the image of the Roman general returning in triumph from battle. Paul rejoiced for the accomplishments that bring glory to God. The gospel is a sweet savor to those who accept Christ: everlasting life. However, it is the promise of doom to those that do not believe. The ministry of sharing the gospel is an urgent one. We must take every opportunity to present the love and grace of God. There is victory through Christ.

There were those who claimed Paul was not fit to preach Christ. Some said that he used the gospel for personal gain. Paul knew his motives were pure, and his message was from God. He did not fear the criticism of men because he had the approval of Christ. This is the manner by which we are to serve. We are not to be controlled by our critics. Our victory is in fulfilling God's plan for us in Christ. It is his approval about which we are to be concerned. Thank him for the victories we have in Christ. Thank him for our Christian opportunity of service. Give him your life today. He knows how to use it.

Nestor is pastor, First Church, Bruce.

UNIFORM

Christ died for you



By Bobby Williamson
Mark 15:22-39

I often think of how Jesus must have felt and what he must have been thinking as he hung on Calvary's cross. I have also had to reshape many of my thoughts about his death on the cross in recent years. For some reason I had long thought in terms of Jesus being a victim, and in a sense he certainly was. But in the plan of God, Jesus was not a victim, but a volunteer. As God scanned the hallowed halls of heaven I envision Jesus stepping to the forefront saying, "I'll go, I'll be the Savior of the world." Jesus Christ, the volunteer, not the victim. How did all of this come about? In our lesson this week we find the story of the crucifixion.

1. Jesus brought before Pilate (15:1-5). We find in these first five verses the tone of these events in the life of Jesus being set. Jesus has now been brought before Pilate. Many accusations were being made by the chief priest. Pilate gives Jesus an opportunity to respond to these accusations. Jesus did not respond to these chief priest, instead, the Bible says, "Jesus made no further answer." Why? Jesus was following God's plan for his life, and his death. Jesus was a volunteer, not a victim.

2. Barabbas' release and Jesus' sentencing (15:6-15). Once again the world had an opportunity to do the right thing. They could have released Jesus, but instead they released a guilty man, and sent Jesus to the cross. There is a strong message in this for each of us. We are the Barabbas for whom Jesus died. He went to the cross for each of us. The song says, "We owed a price we could not pay, he paid a price he did not owe." We must each realize that it was not just the sins of that day that sent Jesus to the cross, but the sins of each of us.

3. The soldiers' shameful treatment of Jesus (15:16-15). We are very quick to be so critical of these soldiers, and rightfully so. But we should realize also that we treat Jesus shamefully when we as Christians do those things which do not honor God. As Christians we should carry our witness for Jesus everywhere we go. Is it not true that sometimes our witness is a negative witness rather than a positive witness? Is this any way to treat Jesus? As we are quick to be critical of the Roman soldiers, let us also be sensitive to the many ways we sometimes treat Jesus.

4. The crucifixion (15:20-32). The Roman soldiers led Jesus to Golgotha and crucified him at the third hour. Here we find a stark, terse statement: "They crucified him." This should impress upon each of us the awful price that Jesus paid for our redemption. The question often arises, "If Jesus has redeemed us, why don't we live more redeemed?"

5. Jesus' death. There are many things we should point out about the death of Jesus. The accusation posted on Jesus' cross was that he claimed to be king of the Jews (v. 26). Jesus did not want to be the king of some political kingdom, he wanted to be the king of their hearts. Jesus also died on the cross between two thieves. In other words, he died with little human support. We should be more aware that we need to support those who have needs in their lives, especially during the difficult days. In verses 37, 39 the Bible says he "gave up the ghost." This literally means he "breathed out" or he "died." This is what Jesus did for us. He literally died on Calvary's cross, so that he might save all who will respond to him in faith.

As we are in this Easter season, let us remember that Jesus willingly died on the cross in order to redeem all people who will respond to him in repentance and faith. What does Christ's death mean to you? Let us commit to tell others about Christ's death for them, and that Jesus wants to give them life more abundant and free.

Williamson is pastor, Park Place Church, Brandon.

capsules

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH'S TOP OFFICIALS QUIT IN SCANDAL: Boston, Mass. (EP) — The chairman and several top officials of the Christian Science Church resigned March 9 in a scandal that included the use of pension funds to prop up the church's newspaper and broadcast operations. The church acknowledged it had borrowed \$41.5 million from its employee pension fund since Jan. 1 to underwrite its highly-regarded newspaper, *The Christian Science Monitor*, which is losing \$13 million per year. It also said it used the money to pay for its cable TV station, the Monitor Channel, which went on the air last May and has cost the church \$250 million. In addition to dipping into the pension fund, the church borrowed \$20 million from its endowment, and \$5 million that had been left by founder Mary Baker Eddy in her will. Church officials told the *Boston Globe* that the money would be repaid with interest. Church historian Stephen Gottschalk said the resignations of chairman Harvey Wood and others signified "the failure of an attempt to turn the church into something it wasn't; a secular media empire." Others said the resignations stemmed from the publication of a controversial book that equates Eddy with Jesus Christ. The book was rejected by the church in 1947 because its content is so contrary to church doctrine. Critics say the board recently decided to publish the book so it could get a \$97 million bequest left by its author, Bliss Knapp.

IRISH COURT EXPLAINS DECISION ALLOWING 14-YEAR-OLD TO HAVE ABORTION: DUBLIN, Ireland (EP) — Ireland's Supreme Court, which ruled Feb. 26 that a 14-year-old girl who had been raped could go to Britain for an abortion, has made public the reasons for that decision. In a decision joined by four of the five Supreme Court justices, the court ruled that abortion was permitted when "there is a real and substantial risk to the life of the mother." The girl had threatened to commit suicide if not permitted to have the abortion. "There is real and substantial risk to the life of the mother by self-destruction, which can only be avoided by the termination of the pregnancy," said Chief Justice Thomas Finlay. Irish citizens voted 2-1 in favor of a constitutional amendment to protect the unborn, making exceptions only to protect the life of the mother and to allow the use of a "morning after" pill used in the first 72 hours after conception. An Irish legal expert told the BBC that an exception for suicidal predisposition is "something which wasn't generally accepted before." In making their decision, justices suggested that legislation will be necessary to clarify ambiguities in the law.

SOUTHERN BAPTISTS STARTED 1,027 NEW MISSIONS IN 1991: SAN ANTONIO, Texas — Southern Baptists started 1,027 church-type missions last year, according to a report presented to a national conference sponsored by the Home Mission Board. Although the number of church-type missions started during 1991 was a slight increase over the number the previous year, it fell far short of the HMB goal of 1,500 new missions per year. In 1990 Southern Baptists started 1,201 church-type missions. In 1991 Texas led the nation with 191 new congregations. Florida ranked second with 89 new missions and California was a close third with 87. Other leading states in the number of new congregations included North Carolina, 71; Georgia, 69; Virginia, 40; Tennessee, 37; Alabama, 29; Mississippi, 28; Kentucky, 26; and Oklahoma, 25.

EIGHT YEARS NURSING ACCREDITATION FOR WILLIAM CAREY: William Carey College has received notification that its baccalaureate degree program in nursing has been approved for continued accreditation for eight years by the National League for Nursing. College officials indicated that the eight-year approval is the maximum period an institution can receive re-accreditation by the league, which sets nation-wide educational standards for professional nursing programs. The Division of Nursing was established in 1968 when the college established a relationship with Southern Baptist Hospital of New Orleans. The college assumed the responsibility of operating a program of nursing which was the successor to the well-known Mather School of Nursing.

HISPANIC SEMINARY SETS DATES FOR SPANISH LANGUAGE SCHOOL: Hispanic Baptist Theological Seminary is again offering its Spanish language school at the San Antonio, Texas campus June 2-July 10. Each year this unique program provides an opportunity to learn conversational Spanish, at the beginning and intermediate levels, with special emphasis on its application to Christian ministry and vocabulary. The final week of school will feature a field excursion to the Mexican border to assist the work of the Texas Baptist Rio Grande River Ministry. The HBTS Spanish Language School is open to the public and tuition is free to Texas Baptists. Tuition for out-of-state or non-Baptist registrants is \$300. Dormitory housing is available at the seminary campus for \$200 per person for the entire six-week term. For more information or to register for the HBTS Spanish Language School, call (512) 924-4338.



"Jesus is not dead, 'cause I feel him in my heart," sing GAs at Camp Garaywa.

GAs make a difference "For All the World"

March 14, at Central Hills Baptist Retreat, GA Day registered 545 GAs from across the state. The theme was "For All the World," taken from a Sandi Patti song.

To interpret the song, the program included music from Tony Moore at the amphitheater, using the portion of the song, "You Are the Peace." Drama and puppets were used by the Northeast Community College Baptist Student Union drama and

puppet team at the Central Hills chapel using the theme, "You Are the Love." "You Are the Joy" was the portion of the song used by Betty Hudson, "Bubbles" the clown, at the lakeside. Dottie Williamson, church planter with the Home Mission Board, concluded the theme with the portion, "You Are the Hope," at the campfire. The finale included using the earth ball, Bubbles leading the entire group in sign language of the theme song chorus, prayer, and a helium balloon release. GAs were told that they were the hope, peace, love, and joy "for all the world, to go and make a difference."

Helen Price, GA summer camp director, was coordinator for GA Day with the assistance of Marjean Patterson, WMU executive director, and Jan Cossitt, state Acteen consultant. Helen received the following letter from Betty Hudson,

alias "Bubbles," the clown: Dear Helen,

Thank you for the day at Central Hills! It was a great day! I must tell you that one of the GA mothers called me on Tuesday after we got back to tell me that her 8-year-old GA had been saved on Sunday night because of one of the gospel illusions "Bubbles" did that made that little GA realize she had never asked Jesus into her heart.

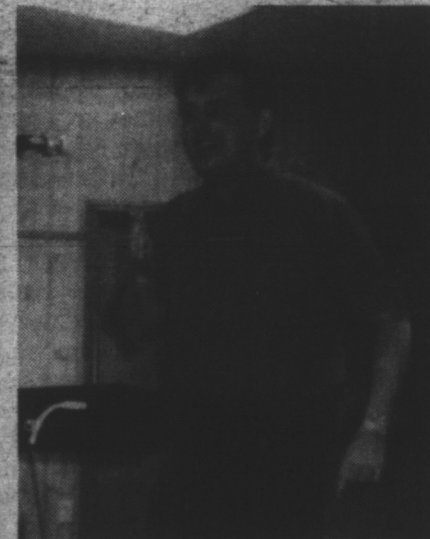
It was a real thrill for me. I so seldom get any personal feedback about REAL results. I truly am praising God, knowing that clowning for my Lord does bring real results.

Thanks again for the wonderful day. I'm sure you will give thanks for Ashley who is now our little sister in Christ.

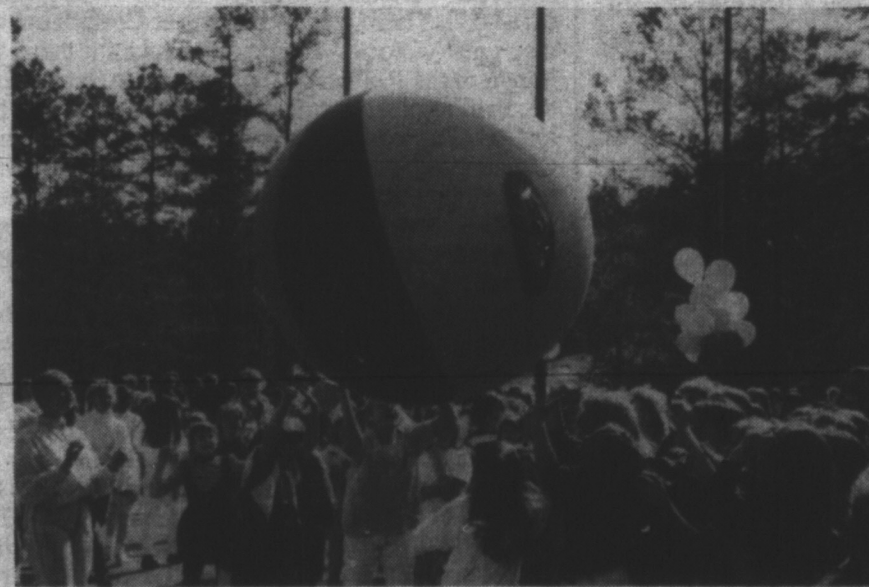
Betty Hudson
"Bubbles," a clown for Christ



Bubbles the clown teaches sign language with the help of Eric Williamson.



Tim Moak leads GAs in music activities at GA Day.



GAs at Central Hills Baptist Retreat keep the earth ball going on Mar. 14.

Baptist Record

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